

**Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.
May 30, 2007**

Internal Operations Report

VPK

The preliminary Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Readiness Rates for the 2005-2006 session were released on May 15, 2007. The rates reflect the performance of 4,581 VPK providers statewide, 97 of those providers are in our bi-county area. Pasco and Hernando providers did very well, scoring 23% in the highest quartile of 265-300 possible points and another 38% in the second highest quartile of 244-265 possible points. The overall state average is 234. This data is accessible online at www.vpk.fldoe.org

Providers that are not in agreement with their scores, have 14 days to file a discrepancy report to the Department of Education. Several providers in both Pasco and Hernando County have expressed a desire to file this report. Questions continue to arise regarding the fairness of the rating system. It is anticipated that final scores will be released sometime during the summer.

Coalition staff participated in 29 VPK enrollments (a combination of summer and fall) during the month of April and performed monitors at 27 VPK sites.

Most VPK sites offering the fall program have ended for this year. As of April 30, 2007, 2,370 children participated in VPK in Pasco and 891 children in Hernando County.

Summer sessions in the public schools begin on June 5 in Pasco County and Hernando County. Three public school sites in each county and five private sites in Pasco County are offering the summer program.

The 2007-2008 Student Base allocation is \$2,677 per student. This is an increase of \$137 over last year's rate of \$2,540. The state differential rate reduces this payment to \$2,652 in Pasco and \$2,610 in Hernando.

Wait List

CDS reports a removal of 283 Hernando County children off the wait list. Both counties now have a “0” waitlist and are serving children on a walk-in basis.

In school readiness, we are currently serving 4,188 children. (1,080 in Hernando and 3,108 in Pasco)

We are still awaiting a response from OEL regarding the approval of our plan amendment to increase the provider rate for Infants and Toddler in Pasco and Hernando Counties.

Match

Pasco County does not have any recorded cash match for the FY 2006-2007. There is a \$46,250 cash match for Hernando County. The total cash MATCH budgeted is \$344,000.

AWI/OEL Visit

At the request of Lisa Hammond, Tom Imholt and Beth Rogers of AWI/OEL visited Coalition offices on May 14 and 15. The purpose was to interview staff, review our overall operation, and make suggestions and recommendations to maintain stability during the transition period.

OEL Eligibility Audit

The State has initiated a new Annual School Readiness/VPK Eligibility Monitor Review to evaluate the School Readiness and VPK eligibility procedures and the reimbursement process for these two programs. Our coalition was one of the first chosen for this review. We have received preliminary results and are awaiting the final report.

Coalition Website

Our new website went “live” on May 17. It is still “under construction” just like our kids. It is very user friendly and offers a wealth of information.

Financial

The Coalition has received notification that the State has allocated level funding for school readiness in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The total grant is \$15,151,219. The VPK grant award has been increased by \$817,676 from \$10,759,328 to \$11,577,004 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Monthly fiscal reviews continue for all cost reimbursement invoices and expenditures remain within the approved financial limitations.